

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02328 140843Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6863

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 2328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MY

SUBJECT: RUMORED CABINET CHANGES

1. PRESS STORIES INDICATE A MINOR GOM CABINET SHUFFLE MAY TAKE PLACE SHORTLY. CHINESE LANGUAGE "SIN CHEW JIT POH" CARRIED A PRIMINENT STORY APRIL 13 TO EFFECT THAT THERE WOULD "SOON" BE A MINOR RESHUFFLE IN WHICH THREE PARILAMENTARY SECRETARIES WOULD BE PROMOTED TO DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THEIR PRESENT MINISTRIES. THESE ARE: SENATOR RAFIDAH AZIZ (UMNO), PUBLIC ENTERPRICES; K. PATHMANABAN (MIC), LABOR AND MANPOWER; AND LEW SIP HON, (MCA) PRIMARY INDUSTRIES. LEW, WHO HAS LONG EXPERIENCE WITH NATURAL RUBBER, WOULD BECOME THE SECOND DEPUTY MINISTER IN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES; HE WOULD TAKE OVER PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUBBER MATTERS WHILE THE PRESENT DEPUTY MINISTER, GERAKAN'S PAUL LEONG, WOULD CONCENTRATE HIS ENERGIES ON TIN. THE APRIL 14 NEW STRAITS TIMES CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE WHICH SAID THAT THREE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES WOULD BE PROMOTED, BUT DID NOT MENTION NAMES, AND ALSO PREDICTED THAT ONE OF THE SEVEN BERJAYA MP'S WOULD BE NAMED A DEPUTY MINISTER. BERJAYA IS NOW THE ONLY NATIONAL FRONT PARTY WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: OUR CONTACTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SMALL-SCALE CABINET RESHUFFLE IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW FOR SURE WHEN IT WILL BE OR EXACTLY WHO WILL BE INVOLVED.

THE RESIGNATIONS AND ARRESTS LAST NOVEMBER OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOR AND MANPOWER ABDULLAH MAJID AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ABDULLAH AHMAD HAVE LEFT OBVIOUS VACANCIES IN THE SUB-CABINET. ALSO, WE KNOW

THAT BERJAYA IS UNHAPPY THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE GOVERNMENT WHILE GHANI GILONG, WHO WAS ONE OF
BERJAYA'S FOUNDERS, BUT WHO FLED BACK TO USNO JUST BEFORE
THE STATE ELECTIONS LAST JUNE, IS A FULL MINISTER.
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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